

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03
PM-10 EAP-00 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 /049 W
-----111747 231504Z /45

O 231448Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1872
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY EMBBERLIN
NATO COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05464

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, GE, SY
SUBJECT: FRG REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT IN DAMASCUS

REF: A) DAMASCUS 1030, B) 86 BONN 37951

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOLLOWING PRESS REPORTS FEBRUARY 20 THAT THE FRG HAS ASKED FOR AGREEMENT FOR A NEW AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS, WE ASKED THE FOREIGN OFFICE IF THIS WERE TRUE. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS (MRS. KAEMPFE) CLARIFIED THAT A DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON WHEN TO SEND A NEW AMBASSADOR ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT IS RECEIVED. SHE WAS VAGUE ON TIMING, SAYING THAT A NEW FRG AMBASSADOR COULD BE SENT AS SOON AS THIS WINTER OR AS LATE AS SUMMER.
3. THE DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS (RICHTER) TOLD US
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FEBRUARY 23 THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ASKED IN ORDER TO SEND A FAVORABLE SIGNAL TO DAMASCUS, "BECAUSE WE NEED THEM IN THE CURRENT HOSTAGE CRISIS." HE SAID THAT THE CABINET HAD WEIGHED THE PROS AND CONS CAREFULLY BEFORE DECIDING TO PROCEED. AFTER AGREEMENT IS RECEIVED, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WOULD THEN DECIDE ON TIMING. RICHTER COMMENTED

THAT ONE WOULD NOT NORMALLY WAIT VERY LONG AFTER RECEIVING AGREEMENT BEFORE SENDING AN AMBASSADOR.

4. RICHTER RECALLED THAT FRG MEASURES AGAINST SYRIA TAKEN NOVEMBER 27 HAD SPECIFIED THAT NO NEW FRG AMBASSADOR WOULD BE SENT "IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE". (THE PREVIOUS AMBASSADOR HAD LEFT NOVEMBER 16.) POINTING OUT THAT A NUMBER OF EYEBROWS HAD BEEN RAISED AT THE PRESS REPORTS, WE ASKED IF THE DECISION ON A NEW AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN MADE PURELY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. ALTHOUGH WE HAD SEEN REPORTS OF INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS LOSING JOBS IN DAMASCUS, WE HAD NOT NOTICED MAJOR STEPS AGAINST TERRORISTS IN SYRIA. RICHTER SAID THAT THE FRG COULD NOT CONFIRM THESE REPORTS INDEPENDENTLY, AND REPEATED THAT THE DECISION ON A NEW AMBASSADOR RELATED ONLY TO THE HOSTAGE SITUATION.

DOBBINS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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